

Expanded Syringe Access Demonstration Program (ESAP)

Under a new law in New York State, persons age 18 years and older can legally possess hypodermic needles and syringes obtained through ESAP. These syringes and needles may be purchased or obtained without prescription from participating licensed pharmacies, hospitals, nursing homes, community health centers, doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants (Public Health Law Section: 3381, Chapter 56, Laws of 2000).

You may also purchase syringes and needles with a prescription at a licensed pharmacy or obtain syringes and needles from an authorized syringe exchange program.

Possession of syringes in accordance with the Public Health Law is legal. Persons legally possessing syringes are not subject to arrest or prosecution under the Penal Law. Lawful sale or furnishing of syringes by participating providers/facilities is also legal. This applies to both registered ESAP providers and authorized syringe exchange programs.

The actual sale or possession of illegal drugs is still a crime and puts you at risk of arrest and criminal prosecution.



State of New York
Department of Health

Disposing of Syringes and Needles Safely

To dispose of used syringes and needles safely:

- 1) put used syringes and needles in a plastic bottle, such as a laundry detergent or bleach bottle; the bottle should be unbreakable and puncture-resistant;
- 2) close the screw-on top tightly and label your sealed container: "Contains Sharps"; and
- 3) don't use coffee cans; plastic lids can come off easily; don't use glass bottles which may break.



Do NOT put a plastic container with used syringes and needles out with the recyclable plastics.

Check with your local health, sanitation, or public works department or trash collector before you dispose of used syringes and needles in your household trash.

Hospitals accept used syringes and needles when put in containers using the steps listed above. The used syringes and needles then become regulated medical waste and the hospitals must handle them in accordance with Environmental Conservation Law. This helps to protect the environment.

Syringe exchange programs in New York State can dispose of used syringes and give new syringes.

Exposed needles are dangerous. If you don't have a puncture-resistant container, recap your needle after you use it. Don't recap needles used by other people.

EXPANDED SYRINGE ACCESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM



Pharmacies registered in New York State's Expanded Syringe Access Demonstration Program (ESAP) may now sell or furnish up to 10 syringes at a time to adults, 18 years or older, without a prescription. Under this program, health care facilities and health care providers (doctors and others who can prescribe syringes) may also furnish syringes.

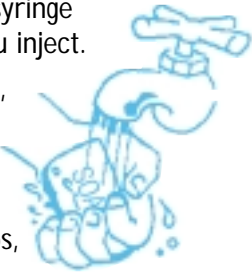
EXPANDED SYRINGE ACCESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM



Reducing Your Risk

Injecting illegal drugs is unsafe and hazardous to your health. If you inject drugs, you are at risk for overdose, HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and other serious infections. Injecting drugs can lead to sores (abscesses and cellulitis) and heart infections (endocarditis). If you do inject, there are ways you can reduce your risk for disease, and can help protect others.

- Always use a new sterile syringe and needle every time you inject.
- Never share your needles, syringes, cookers, cotton and water.
- Clean injection site with soapy water, alcohol swabs, or rubbing alcohol before you inject.
- Avoid injecting into the same spot over and over again.
- If you don't have a new syringe and needle and you must inject drugs before you can get clean ones, clean the syringe and needle with bleach to reduce your risk of infection.



Cleaning with Bleach & Water:

These steps may help reduce your risk for infection, but injecting drugs is never safe. For help quitting drugs, call the toll-free numbers listed in this brochure.

Step 1. Remove Blood from Syringe and Needle: Pour clean water into clean cup or bottle cap. Fill syringe with needle half full with clean water; pull back on plunger. Shake the syringe and squirt the water through the syringe and needle. Repeat twice with new water.



Step 2. Bleach: Fill the syringe with needle with full strength bleach and shake. Squirt the bleach out through the syringe and needle.



Step 3. Clean Water: Rinse the syringe and needle three more times, with clean water. Keep rinse water apart from water used to prepare drugs.

Do not reuse cotton, water or bleach.

Protecting Yourself and Others

- Learn your HIV status: Get tested. If you're not infected, you can stay that way. If you are infected, you can learn how to take care of yourself and avoid passing HIV to others or getting reinfected, and get help telling your partners.
- Regular drug use can lead to dependence. Drug treatment can help you stop using drugs. Call the toll-free number in this brochure for more information about drug treatment.
- Overdose is a risk. Overdose is more likely when mixing different drugs, especially with alcohol or other depressants, and when using after a period of abstinence, including treatment or jail. If someone overdoses, call 911 and perform rescue breathing.
- Syringe exchange programs (SEPs) exchange used syringes and needles for new, sterile ones and help you find medical care, drug treatment and get tested for HIV.
- If you're having sex, use a male latex or female condom every time. HIV, hepatitis B, and other diseases may be spread through unprotected sex.
- Ask your doctor or local health department clinic for a hepatitis B vaccine and testing for HIV and hepatitis C. If you are HIV infected, ask about HIV treatment.

How to Get Help: Toll-Free Numbers

For help quitting drugs, you can get referrals from the New York State Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) at **1-800-522-5353**. Or, in New York City, call **1-800-LIFENET (543-3638)**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is an anonymous help line run by the Mental Health Association of New York City for persons seeking treatment for drugs, alcohol or emotional problems.

To find ESAP and disposal sites, syringe exchange programs, HIV testing sites and to access services near you and get answers to your questions about HIV/AIDS and safe syringe and needle disposal, call the New York State Department of Health HIV/AIDS Hotlines:

English **1-800-541-AIDS**
Spanish **1-800-233-SIDA**
Deaf/TDD **1-800-369-AIDS**